



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#16/B
160
3-31-03

In re the Application of: YABU, Takayuki et al.

Group Art Unit: 2828

Serial No.: 09/648,632

Examiner: JACKSON, Cornelius H

Filed: August 28, 2000

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 5763

For: **DISCHARGE ELECTRODES CONNECTING STRUCTURE FOR LASER APPARATUS AND LASER APPARATUS THEREWITH**

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2003

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A discharge electrodes connecting structure for a laser apparatus comprising:

a pair of anode and cathode provided within a laser chamber for sealing a laser gas in an opposing manner, generating a discharge so as to excite a laser gas flowing therebetween and oscillating a laser beam;

a conductive anode base holding the anode;

an insulative cathode base holding the cathode;

a return plate electrically connecting the anode base to said laser chamber so as to supply a current to the anode and having a thickness of equal to or more than 100 μm and equal to or less than 500 μm ; and

a high voltage power source supplying a high frequency current between the anode and the cathode;

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